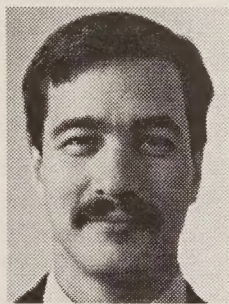


Rabbi's Column

Happy Holidays?

As some of you have observed from time to time, shopping is not my forte; while I usually don't mind going into stores, actually making a decision once inside amongst all those choices is hard for me. But during this time of year, I avoid shopping altogether. In fact, to the extent possible, I avoid public commercial places altogether — especially elevators and stores with muzak. I admit it —



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

I have an extremely low tolerance for Christmas. From TV to streetlights to sales clerks to catalogs in the mail, I am inundated with the symbols, words and images of the majority culture's celebration. I don't mean to sound like a Scrooge — I enjoy seeing trees in living room windows, hearing religious music in sacred places and watching the *Nutcracker* at the ballet. It is the presumption of a shared culture and the invisibility of my own that I find so hard.

When America is not being described as "a Christian nation," the common understanding is of America as a nation of "Protestants, Catholics and Jews." Having decided to recognize the Jews as the token "others" in American society, the majority culture discovered Chanukah (with the cooperation of lots of Jews and Jewish institutions). Many stores, banks, and other establishments make an effort to give some recognition to Chanukah. There is a menorah in the window, Chanukah gift wrap may be offered, and Santa Claus and tree-trimming take place at the "Winter Holidays" party. Most Jews, I think, would gladly see the return of the office Christmas party in exchange for being able to take the High Holidays off without using up vacation or personal time.

Of greatest concern to me is the display of religious symbols on public property. While the presence of Christmas decor in

virtually every public space is offensive enough, the display of exclusively religious symbols like crosses and crèches in public places is not only wholly inappropriate, it violates the Constitution. The Jewish community has long sought to have the cross atop Mt. Davidson in San Francisco, the site of an annual Easter service, declared an unconstitutional display. Some Jewish groups, notably Lubavitch Chabad, have aggressively sought to have local jurisdictions "officially" recognize Chanukah by placing giant *chanukiot* (Chanukah menorahs) on public property. (In San Francisco, the Union Square menorah is sponsored by Chabad.) What's wrong with such displays? They violate the spirit of the Establishment Clause of the Constitution's Bill of Rights which guarantees the separation of church and state. They represent a dangerous step towards the idea that the state should encourage the observance of a particular religion. And the claim that these symbols are universal or secular and not religious cheapens their meaning further. In Great Neck, New York, the local Reform rabbi and other liberal Jews found themselves arguing with Orthodox Jews before the local Park Commission over the propriety of displaying a menorah on public property. Reform Rabbi Jerome Davidson explains what happened in Great Neck in the Winter issue of *Reform Judaism*, the official magazine of the Reform movement in North America.

My son's pre-school is truly multicultural. There are children from Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Chinese, Native American, Iranian, Ukrainian, Korean and other backgrounds. The school has decided that it could not properly observe all of the holidays and customs the many families of its children observe without doing each one in a totally watered-down version. As the (non-Jewish) director said to me, "Even for pre-schoolers, there is more to Chanukah than latkes!" Rather than observe a little of this and a little of that, the school

Continued on page 4

Sephardi/Mizrahi column #4

Zengoula for Hanukah

—Rachel Wahba ©1994

Last month I promised I would finally get to writing about the synagogue in Burma, but that will have to wait until January. It's Hanukah already and time for a Sephardi/Mizrahi "holiday recipe"!

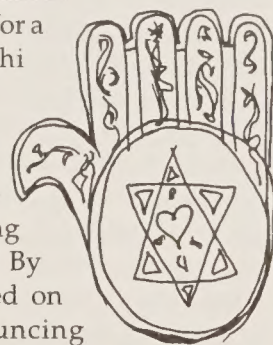
So what did this community eat to symbolize the never-ending oil on Hanukah? By the way, I noticed on the flyer announcing Sha'ar Zahav's Sephardi-Mizrahi Hanukah party that Hanukah was spelled with a "CH"; definitely not in Sephardic fashion! On Hanukah it has become a playful tradition for my now grown up daughter and me to sing our Ashkenazi-Sephardi Hanukah song for Judy, my partner and our token Ashkenazi: "You say CHAH (making our point as gutturally as possible), we say HAAH; HA-nukah"! Among my parents and extended Sephardic family it's always such a rare pleasure to be in the majority — and fortunately Judy is exceptionally good natured!

Zengoula, a concoction of sugary fried dough, that's what they ate at Hanukah in Baghdad, in Bombay, and in Rangoon's primarily Iraqi Jewish community. Jews from Morocco eat a jelly doughnut-like pastry called *sufganiot*. In different parts of the Middle East and North Africa Sephardim and Mizrachim celebrate with *zengoula*, *sufganiot*, *zalabia*, and other variations of sugary fried pastries.

My mother stopped making *zengoula* when I was quite young. *Zengoula*, a child's delight of twisty circular crispy puffed tubes of deep fried dough dipped in syrup and powdered sugar; too unhealthy, and way "too much oil"! she said as she reluctantly gave it up.

And then we switched to *latkes* — also fried, but controllably so, and much too tasty to give up! My current intercultural

Continued on page 7



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

So I've been reading this book called *City of Many Days*, a novel about Jerusalem in the years of the British mandate. And in it a character tells a story about the time when the Israelites were wandering in the desert. A man named Reuel was brought to Moses for trial. It seems that Reuel, a poet and musician, had been singing and talking about the wonders of Egypt left behind, and sitting around the campfire on the long desert nights, had sought to sway the hearts of the Jews, driving many to homesickness "unto death."



Tiela Chalmers

The people were sure that Moses would make short shrift of Reuel, calling upon God to open the earth to swallow him up. Instead, the two sat in Moses' tent until the wee hours, talking of the wonders and beauties of Egypt. Reuel was surprised to learn that Moses, too, was homesick. Why then, he asked Moses, did he remain in the desolate desert, filled only with sand and promises? Moses explained, "I consciously prefer that which is in the process of creation to that which is finished and known." With that, he arranged to have Reuel escorted back to Egypt, wishing him well.

Of course, the Israelites who felt homesick were not thinking, for the moment, of the slavery that weighed upon them in Egypt, and that prevented them from enjoying or being a part of most of the wonders of that culture. Within those limitations, Egypt did offer a variety of food and plenty of water, roofs over their heads, and no long treks through the desert.

For those of us who are members of a minority in American society — and virtually all of us are: Jews, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, women, children, liberals — we sometimes face this same challenge. It is tempting to try to get along, not challenging the prevailing values in our society, keeping our heads down, enjoying the economic and social stability the United States offers, even if it is at the price of some degree of freedom to be ourselves or to live our values. The

recent elections gave each of our minority groups something to be unhappy about, and served as a reminder of how important it is that we continue to try to change and to create.

The founding members of Sha'ar Zaveh, like Moses, chose not to stay in the mainstream, and instead embarked on a challenging and creative process of building not just a new synagogue, but a new liturgy, a new model for spiritual and pastoral leadership, and a community structured not according to how everyone else did it, but based on our values, beliefs and experiences. They doubtless missed some of the comforting things about more established, mainstream congregations: big buildings, lots of programs and lots of money to pay for them, well-established structures. But they chose that which was in the process of creation, rather than that which was finished and known.

Now that we are almost 18 years old, we ourselves have become more established. We do not need to create

Continued on page 5

Yizkor Elohim

Harry Clinton Bigglestone, III

November 27, 1946 - October 10, 1994

"He was honorable, irascible, in almost constant pain that he seldom allowed to show; he was intelligent, opinionated and willing to help whenever asked. He was reliable, generous, and a great conversationalist.

"Clint modeled principled relationships in all his dealings with others. He was always glad to share knowledge and always ready to learn."
—Tom Whitmore

Clint had a lifelong love of words, language and books; he loved role-playing, dressing up and the intellectual and aesthetic challenge of dreaming up new worlds. For many years, Clint and Sarah were "den mothers" at the Safety Monitors Tent at the Freedom Day Parade. He considered parenting as a primary responsibility and it was a great joy in his life. Our sympathy goes out to his children, Eric and Branwyn, and to his widow and soulmate, our member Sarah Goodman. *May his memory be for a blessing.*

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Yizkor Elohim

Don Albert

December 19, 1946 — November 7, 1994

Dear Don died early in the morning on Monday, November 7, with his partner, Terrance Cheung, at his side.

Don lived in San Francisco for more than 20 years, and was very involved in CSZ during the last 13. In one of his first roles, Don negotiated the acquisition of our building on Danvers Street. Don joined the board, was elected vice president and then served as CSZ's president in 1985-1986.

During the years after his presidency, Don chaired and was a long-time member of the finance committee, and chaired the education committee, task force and first committee on children's education, past presidents council and endowment fund. He also co-chaired our synagogue's 13th anniversary celebration, and most recently, he chaired the task force on the role of the non-Jew in the synagogue.

Don's commitment to Judaism went far beyond 220 Danvers Street. Don represented CSZ at the local Jewish Community Relations Council, on an allocations committee of the Jewish Community Federation, and on the regional and national AIDS committees of the UAHC. He also involved himself in many of the World Congress' regional and international conferences of gay and lesbian Jews.

But Don's identity as a Jew was more than organizational. At Don's first UAHC national AIDS committee meeting, Don told the other members that he wasn't sure how much more he could offer the committee: "I come here, like all of you, first and foremost as a Jew. Next, I am here as a gay man. Finally, I come as a person with AIDS." Richard Inlander remembers sailing through the Panama Canal with Don last year. As the sun set, Don reminded Richard that it was the start of Chanukah; they returned to their cabin to light the menorah. This past spring, Don celebrated his final Pesach in Jerusalem, an experience which gave him great joy.

Most CSZ members will remember Don for his commitment to the synagogue, organizational skills, attention to detail, need to be in control, timing of Rabbi Kahn's sermons and sardonic

wit. Only a few of us got to know the compassionate, sensitive, devoted, artistic side of Don, which grew even stronger over the last years of his life. All of us will remember him as someone with deep integrity and high principles.

Don's funeral was Wednesday, November 9 at Sinai Memorial Chapel with interment at Sha'ar Zahav's section of Hills of Eternity Cemetery. In addition to Terrance, Don is survived by his mother Roslyn, father Monroe, sister Robin, brother-in-law Wayne and many loving friends.

Donations in Don's memory may be made to Project Open Hand, 2720 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 or Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

May the memory of this righteous man be for a blessing.

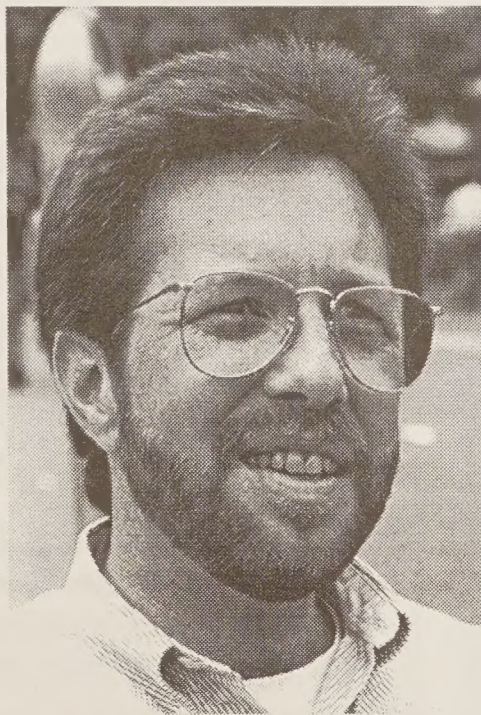


Photo by Michael Bettinger

December Bar Mitzvah

Evan Kuluk, 12/10

Sustaining Our Spirits

A group for Jewish men and women living with serious illness is being planned by the Jewish Healing Center. Participants will explore Jewish theological and spiritual issues concerning illness and healing, drawing both from Jewish tradition and from the text of participants' life experiences. A small group setting encourages Judaic study and discussion, development of spiritual awareness, tools for personal coping, and psychological and social support. The group will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Shavin, a clinical psychologist, and Rabbi Nancy Flam, the West Coast Director of the Jewish Healing Center. The group will begin in late fall/early winter and will be held in San Francisco at a cost of \$125 for eight two-hour sessions. For more information please contact The Jewish Healing Center: Marsha Guggenheim (750-4197), Dr. Susan Shavin (441-0318), or Rabbi Nancy Flam (387-4999).

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Brian Besser

Debra Gelber

Susan Lubeck

Peter Rothaug

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Dr. Diane Sabin

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November Va'ad Report

—Cheryl M. Bryan, Recorder

Rabbi Kahn began the meeting with a D'var Torah in which he indicated that all of us can indeed be blessed even under adverse conditions. We do not, however, want to overlook the fact that we may be wounded during this process, and be forever changed.

Mike Zimmerman gave an update on the Treasurer's Report. Robin Leonard then proposed a new oneg policy which has been used successfully in other synagogues, and would, hopefully, increase congregational participation. More information will be forthcoming.

There was much discussion about whether or not the Gift Shop should be more easily accessible, e.g. displays moved to the oneg room, gift shop open after services, etc. There was an overwhelming feeling that the cabinets and/or displays may be moved to the oneg room to increase visibility, but the Gift Shop should not be open after services.

The Va'ad agreed to co-sponsor a musical event with Temple Emanu-El. The event will present Safam, a band that plays modern Jewish "light rock."

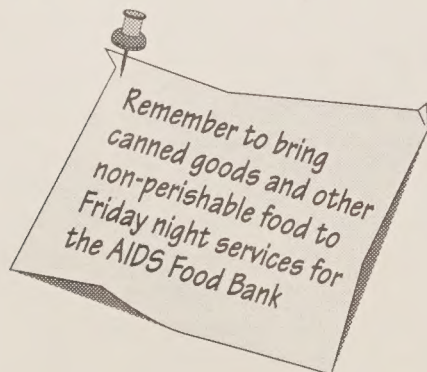
Four new members were approved for membership.

The synagogue's Kashrut policy was revisited. If you have any questions about how it applies to an event you are planning, please contact the office.

Please remember to call the synagogue and let us know if you learn that any member of our congregation is ill or hospitalized.

Plans are currently underway for the 18/10 Party. This represents the synagogue's 18th Anniversary and Rabbi Kahn's 10th Anniversary. Allan Gold and Mark Mackler have agreed to co-chair and plan this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10, with the singing of Oseh Shalom. A closed session immediately followed.



Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 1

has a policy not to observe holidays as a school. Children are encouraged to talk about what they do at home, to include their family activities in their play and art and to invite their friends and classmates to celebrate with them at their home observances. The result is a safe and neutral

public place which is filled with common ground, respect for and attention to difference, and the equal treatment of everyone's culture and customs. This is a model that I hope will one day be more common; in the meantime, I'll avoid Serramonte until the post-holiday sales.

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President's Column

Continued from page 2

each aspect of our congregational life anew: we have much tradition, and the hard work of past leaders on which we can depend.

This is both a gift and a challenge. On the one hand, of course, the thrill and challenge of creating everything anew wears thin after awhile, and part of what spurs us to create new liturgy and structure is the chance to share it with future members and future generations. And as we become more well-established, our ability to influence more "mainstream" branches of Judaism increases, and our values of social justice, lay leadership and feminism are spread into those branches.

On the other hand, we find ourselves tempted to become stuck in our once-new creations. Suggestions for change sometimes are met with, "But this is how we've always done it here!" and "Our members will never accept such a radical change." Our liturgy, once a vibrant work in progress, has taken on the solemnity and well-established aura of your grandmother's old prayerbook —

most of us don't even think about how it might be changed to reflect today's concerns or new poetry or song. What was once "that which is in the process of creation" has become "that which is finished and known."

Our challenge, then, both individually and as a congregation, is to try to incorporate both. To respect and build upon the past and our accomplishments, while still pushing on to stay in the process of creation. Our challenge is to ensure that our liturgy and institutional values continue to reflect our changing community and, perhaps, changing values. Next month (after you have had a chance to mull this over) I will have some suggestions for how we — and you — might achieve that balance.

Members' Yahrzeits

12/18 David Glassberg
12/20 Norman David Kramer
12/21 Walter Palmer
12/29 Allan Craig

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Anniversaries

December

- 1 Elizabeth Goodman & Ellen Lewin
- 9 Judith Scherr & Lynne Painter
- 11 Karen Fierer & Ellen Scott
- 12 Michael Pierce & Jeffrey Franzheimer
- 13 Ruth Rainero & Pieter de Haan
- 14 Shelley Spiro & Gabriele Kassner
- 17 Amy Weston & Bonnie Bishop
- 18 Joan Goldman & Rachael Maclachlan
- 28 Shelley Adler & Sue Weinstein
- 31 Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach
- 31 Florence & Steven Nacamulli

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Jake Peters, in memory of Dr Andrew Zysman
Rachel Wahba & Judy Dlugacz, in memory of Katie Wahba, our deepest love

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Mike Rankin, in memory of Betty Schoenberg

Contributions to the Building Fund in memory of Harry Clint Bigglestone, III

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Robert & Martha Black
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Natalie & Abraham Goetz
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Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of the 20th anniversary of Alex Ingersoll and David Stein
Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in memory of Milton Taylor

General Fund

Robin Leonard & Lee Ryan, in honor of the birth of Atara Chaviva Goodman
Dvora Honigstein, in memory of Adam Honigstein
John Atteridg
Barry Siegel, in memory of his family
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ethel Harris
A Travelling Jewish Theater, in honor of Sha'ar Zahav Klezmer Band
Jane Segal, in honor of the Sha'ar Zahav Klezmer Band
Lee Morrow
Mark Mackler & Ingu Yun, in honor of Sam Kaplan's being chosen for the position of ADL Director in Virginia
Sharyn Saslafsky & Catherine Dodd, in memory of Lynne Yanofsky
Judith Klain, in memory of Sid Weiner
Theresa Canepa & Michael Karp, in honor of the 10th anniversary of Jonathan Funk & John Arnold
Barry Siegel, in honor of Ron Lezell
Jonathan Funk, John Arnold & Evan, in honor of Walt Leiss' hospitality
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Harry Berenstein
Neil Hart, in memory of Anna Hart and Lottie Goldinger
Yehuda Hyman, in memory of Charles Hyman
Lisa Niver, in honor of the marriage of Susan Feldman & Jeffrey Argentos
Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of the 20th anniversary

of David Stein & Alex Ingersoll and the 10th anniversary of Jonathan Funk & John Arnold
Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of the wedding of Susan Feldman & Jeffrey Argentos
Drew Parker & Mike Siani, in honor of their wedding
Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in memory of Cy Bellm
Batya Kalis, in memory of Esther Kalis
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Lynne Yanofsky

Kadimah Fund

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in memory of Dolores Urban
Ida Kuluk, Evan Kuluk & Susan Spott, in honor of Shayna Frantz Prochovnick, Hannah Vera Pines-Schwartz and the rest of the CSZ newborns

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Drew Parker & Mike Siani, in honor of their wedding
Mark Bowers, in memory of Harry & Marjorie Bowers
Sarah Goodman, in memory of Clint Bigglestone
Geraldine Barr, in honor of Maxine Epstein's birthday
Virginia Donohue & Mark Klaiman, in honor of their wedding
Susan L Feldman & Jeffrey J Argentos, in honor of Allan Kahn
The Geifman Family, in memory of Tom Yazman on

the occasion of the unveiling of his headstone

Barry Siegel
Phyllis & George Mintzer, in memory of Dolores Urban & Lois Biegelsen
Rabbi Beth Singer

Time to Prepare Manual Fund

David Weinstein, to celebrate the lives of Paul and Jeanne Weinstein, at the anniversary of their birthdays

Donations in Memory of Don Albert

Allan Berenstein
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Richard Inlander & Ben Schalit
Batya Kalis
Phyllis & George Mintzer
Irene Ogus & Rosalinda del Moral
Jerry Rosenstein
Susan Stahl
Gertrude & Henry Yam

Special Thanks

To **Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**, who raised \$1000 for the General Fund by designating CSZ as a beneficiary for donations in honor of their tenth anniversary

Continued on page 7

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Contributions

Continued from page 6

To **Irene Ogus**, for the dedication of the new Torah Covers, on the occasion of her 50th birthday
 To **Ed Tanovitz**, for the donation of a set of *rimonim*
 To **Charles Norton**, for the donation of the new Ark and a pair of *rimonim*
 To **Linda Michels**, for crafting and donating our new Torah covers, in honor of **Daniel Chesir's** 50th birthday
 To our late Past President, **Don Albert**, for a bequest to dedicate the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Ark.

High Holiday Donations

Miriam Abrams, in honor of Johanna Ceapach Choinn
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Susan Amdur
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Stuart Berger & Timothy Leary
Alan Berman
Joshua Bobrowsky
Miriam Cantor, in memory of Hedda Cardenas Schmidt
Glenn Frankel
Jonathan Funk & John Arnold
Bruce Goldstein
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Miriam Nathanson
Nancy Robinson
Margaret Rosoff
Lee Safran, in honor of Nicholas Wellington
Carla Schick, in honor of the birth of Emily Goldstein
Michael Small, in memory of Francie Small
Dore Steinberg, in memory of Maxwell Steinberg
Sam Thal
Marion Trentman

Let's Talk About Safe Sex

What would you say if a friend told you he'd had unsafe sex? What does safe sex mean when you're HIV-positive? How can we help each other stay safe? Come to a STOP AIDS meeting with your chaverim from Sha'ar Zahav and hear how they are answering these questions. The meeting, sponsored by the Brotherhood, will be held at Lane Schickler's house on Sunday, December 18, at 1:30 pm. Space is limited. Please call Steven (575-1545 x258) for more information.

Sephardi/Mizrahi

Continued from page 1

combination works: *latkes* (potato pancakes) as appetizer, and *sufganiot* (jelly doughnuts) for dessert, with Moroccan mint tea and Turkish coffee. In my life, it was the *latkes* that we considered "exotic", and my mother made the best, with "as little oil as possible"!

Zengoula for the adventurous

Ingredients:

1 pound white flour
 ¼ oz. dried yeast
 1 tsp. sugar
 a pinch of salt
 1 pint luke-warm water

Sift the flour into a large and warm mixing bowl. Mix the yeast, sugar, and some of the water and leave covered in a warm place until frothy. Add the remaining water to the yeast mixture, then blend all in a blender until smooth and slightly thicker in texture than pancake batter.

Cover with a cloth and leave to sit in a warm place to rise for about an hour.

Beat again vigorously; and once again let it sit and rise some more.

Repeat again, one more time!

Heat the oil in a frying pan until very hot, and then reduce the heat to medium. Fill a funnel or plastic ketchup type dispenser with the batter and squeeze it onto the hot oil in circles and make any design you wish (round concentric circles, pretzels, etc.)

They will rise quickly to the surface. Turn them over. When crisp and golden, remove them gently with a fork and drain them from the oil. Dip into the syrup.

Syrup

4 cups sugar
 2 cups water
 2 or 2½ tablespoons lemon juice
 2 tablespoons rosewater

Combine sugar and water and boil for a few minutes. Add the lemon juice and let it simmer until it coats the back of a spoon. Add rosewater and boil for a minute. Dip the zengoula in the syrup after it has cooled.

Naches

To **Jonathan Comisar** on the birth of his nephew, **Yona Chai Abkowitz**

To **Florence and Steve Nacamulli**, on their fifteenth anniversary

To **Allan Berenstein**, on his son's marriage

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Xmas Already?

— Lane Schickler

It's not too early to start making your December holiday plans. This Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav will once again prepare and deliver meals and gifts for Project Open Hand. In past years, this Bikkur Cholim Committee program has proven an extremely rewarding experience for all who participated. It's a wonderful way to be Jewish at Christmas, while performing a much-appreciated mitzvah.

If you have questions, call Lane Schickler (255-9679) or Stephan Howard (567-2886).

Gay and Lesbian Holocaust Research Intern Opportunities

Specific internships are available for work with historians on research into the fate of gay men and lesbians during the Nazi era.

These internships are available in the months April-June 1995 and September-November 1995. Although these internships are offered through the Research Institute of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, interns will be expected to work on various projects throughout the entire museum.

Students interested in this field should indicate their preference on the general internship application available through the CSZ office by marking their interest in the Research Department of the U.S. Holocaust Research Institute and writing 'Gay and Lesbian Related Research' beside it.

Applicants should have general knowledge of the Holocaust and be familiar with such office skills as word processing, filing, etc.

Israel Update

The Reform movement is under attack in Israel. The Labor Party has agreed to bring the ultra-Orthodox, non-Zionist Shas Party into the government under terms which would set the Reform movement back a generation. Prime Minister Rabin, in his desire to widen the coalition, has agreed to Shas' demands to enshrine the religious status quo in a basic law, and to overturn by legislation in the Knesset any Supreme Court decision inconsistent with the coalition agreement.

Enshrining the religious status quo in a basic law (which needs a majority of 61 Knesset Members to overturn — as opposed to a simple majority of those present and voting) is in itself a major setback. The status quo discriminates against non-Orthodox movements and their rabbis and is anti-democratic by its very nature. But to agree in advance to overturn Supreme Court decisions, at the insistence of one ultra-Orthodox party, without even knowing what these decisions will contain, is unheard of in any democracy.

Many recent Reform gains in Israel have come by virtue of Supreme Court decisions. Just in the last year, we (over 60 CSZ members are supporters of the Association of Reform Zionists of

America) have won government funding for the Hebrew Union College and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism; Reform conversions conducted abroad on Israeli citizens have been recognized; the Supreme Court insisted that it is illegal to bar Conservative and Reform rabbis from Israel's network of religious councils. In the next few months the Supreme Court is scheduled to rule on a hugely significant case involving the legality of Reform conversions in Israel. In fact, it is with our recent successes in mind that Shas is holding hostage the government's peace initiative.

Shas' response to the recent furor in Israel... "We will bring down the government if our agreement with Rabin is not approved. Religious legislation is more important to us than the peace process."

Now is the time to join the battle. The impact upon the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel will be far more detrimental than failing to stop the Orthodox parties regarding the issue of who is a Jew. That issue, as symbolic as it was, affected only a handful of people. Shas is attempting to revamp the entire legal system as it relates to matters of

Continued on page 10

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

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Birthdays

December

- 1 Benjamin Manuel Dickstein
- 2 Robert Sterman
- 3 Sophie Rose Macks
- 4 Maxine Epstein
- 4 Paul Quin
- 6 Karen Fierer
- 6 Michelle Dickstein
- 7 Debbi Jacobs-Levine
- 8 Merry Luskin
- 8 George Lucas
- 12 Bill Goldstein
- 12 Lane Schickler
- 12 Walter Leiss
- 14 Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan
- 15 Nina Raff
- 15 Ron Lezell
- 20 Michele Sullivan
- 22 Ellen Murland
- 23 Evan Kuluk
- 23 Daniel Rosenfeld-Sharp
- 24 Max Blachman-Gentile
- 25 G'dali Braverman
- 26 Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe
- 26 Jose Luis Moscovich
- 29 Reuben Isaac Winters Raff
- 29 Susan Gelmis
- 29 Bernard Choden
- 30 Stan Kern
- 30 Leslie Bergson
- 31 Greer Hauptman
- 31 Sam Thal

UAHC Urges End to Military Bias

At a time when "religious" fundamentalists are escalating their homophobic bigotry, it's good to know the leaders of Reform Judaism continue to speak with a strong voice on behalf of the rights of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. On October 22, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center, wrote President Clinton:

"The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has consistently supported civil rights and civil liberties for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. . . . I would like to applaud the administration's decision not to pursue another appeal in the case of [openly gay] Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold. . . . I would like to voice my opposition to any additional actions to remove Petty Officer Meinhold under the new policy. . . . Meinhold's openness has not hindered the readiness or the effectiveness of his crew. . . . The Union of American Hebrew Congregations would like to reaffirm its opposition to any policy that would exclude gay men and lesbians from serving in the military."

Spiritual Support for People with HIV/AIDS

CSZ members who are living with HIV, or the partners of a person with HIV, are invited to participate in our ongoing spiritual support group. We gather approximately every month, alternating between a Shabbat dinner one time and a more structured discussion the next. The catered Shabbat dinners are hosted by members of the group.

On Friday evening, December 16, we will gather at a member's home in Noe Valley for a catered Shabbat dinner. If you would like to make a reservation and receive directions or simply get more information, please call Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue office. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, December 13.

Classifieds

GAY ISRAELI, experienced teacher offers private/group Hebrew lessons. If you're interested in studying Hebrew or improving it, please contact Avy (776-7104).

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Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Israel

Continued from page 8

religion and state, and in the process destroy our developing Israel movement. It will further alienate an American Jewry which is in any case increasingly self-absorbed and distanced from Israel.

We still have a window of opportunity to have an impact upon events. It will take time between the entrance of Shas into the government and the preparation and ultimate passage of legislation. Your \$25 (\$35 for a couple) annual membership dues in ARZA goes to fight this battle. If you have not already joined, please consider doing so by sending your check, payable to ARZA, to the synagogue. And for further information or other activities you can undertake, contact CSZ's Israel Chavurah Chair, Ron Lezell (626-5748).

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)

Administrative Vice President,

David Stein (863-4769)

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Bylaws, Edward Pollock

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Children's Chavurah, Jody Adelberg and Nancy Meyer

Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard and Rose Katz

Dues, Lisa Katz

Education, Judith Cohen

Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman

Fine Arts, Alice Prussin

Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and Ellie Cohen

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell

Leadership Development, Irene Ogus

Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold

Membership, Sara Haber and Larry Wexler

Newsletter, Joe Hample (621-7675)

Oneg, Bobbi McGhee

Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin

Personnel, David Stein

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky

Religious School, Trudi Hauptman

Ritual, Ora Prochovnick

Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer

Social Program, by committee

Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard

Women's Chavurah, Donna Rabinowitz

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, liaison).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

The Gaily Forward needs an Advertising Coordinator!
Call Joe Hample at 621-7675

1 Thursday **28 Kislev**

- World AIDS Day
- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting
- 7 pm, Interfaith Healing service, MCC

2 Friday **29 Kislev**

- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Kahn, Tova Green & Max Rossoff Nichols

3 Saturday **30 Kislev**

- 9:30 am, Kadimah followed by Kadimah Family program
- 12 noon, Bowling, b'nai mitzvah
- 6 pm, Chanukah party

4 Sunday **1 Tevet**

- 10 am – 2 pm, Chanukah Blood Drive
- 11 am, Infant Toddler Group at Meyer/O'Keeffe house
- 5:30 pm, Preschool Chanukah program, East Bay, location TBA

5 Monday **2 Tevet**

- 6 pm, Healing Service

6 Tuesday **3 Tevet**

7 Wednesday **4 Tevet**

- 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience
- 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew

8 Thursday **5 Tevet**

- 7 pm, Children's Education meeting

9 Friday **6 Tevet**

- 6 pm, Richmond neighborhood chavurah
- 6:30 pm, Rabbi's dinner
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Nina Wouk, Jonathan Comisar and Brian Besser. Oneg sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, in honor of eight years of Kaiser Brunches

10 Saturday **7 Tevet**

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10:30 am, Shabbat service led by Daniel Chesir and Martha Rosett.

11 Sunday **8 Tevet**

12 Monday **9 Tevet**

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

13 Tuesday **10 Tevet**

- 7 pm, Membership Committee meeting, location TBA

14 Wednesday **11 Tevet**

- 7 pm, Newsletter editing
- 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience
- 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew

15 Thursday **12 Tevet**

- 6:30 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting

16 Friday **13 Tevet**

- 6 pm, Shabbat dinner for Kadimah Grades 4–5
- 6 pm, Shabbat dinner for members living with HIV or partners of people with HIV. Call synagogue for details
- East Bay Shabbat service led by Rabbi Kahn
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Daniel Chesir and Steve Weitz

17 Saturday **14 Tevet**

- 9:30 am, Kadimah

18 Sunday **15 Tevet**

- 1:30 pm, Stop AIDS meeting, Lane Schickler's house

19 Monday **16 Tevet**

- 6 pm, Healing Service
- 7 pm, Newsletter proofreading/layout

20 Tuesday **17 Tevet**

21 Wednesday **18 Tevet**

- 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience
- 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

22 Thursday **19 Tevet**

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting
- 7:30 pm, Second T'filah seminar

23 Friday **20 Tevet**

- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Kahn and Jody Reiss

24 Saturday **21 Tevet**

- Kadimah Winter Recess
- Project Open Hand Volunteering

25 Sunday **22 Tevet**

- Project Open Hand Volunteering
- 10:30 am, Kaiser Brunch

26 Monday **23 Tevet**

27 Tuesday **24 Tevet**

28 Wednesday **25 Tevet**

- 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience
- 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew

29 Thursday **26 Tevet**

30 Friday **27 Tevet**

- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Lyssa Friedman and Michael Latz

31 Saturday **28 Tevet**

- Kadimah Winter Recess

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To place a classified ad, call the office.

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